

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for achieving synchronization in a value metering system using a digital print head capable of printing a plurality of printed lines on a substrate displaced relative to the print head in a moving direction, wherein the lines are substantially perpendicular to the moving direction, and a first signal is provided for indicating a line is printed, said apparatus comprises:

a first mechanism operable at a first position to restrict the displacement of the substrate and a second position to effectively disengage from substrate, wherein the first mechanism is operated at the first position when the print head prints a line; [and]

a second mechanism, responsive to the first signal, for causing the first mechanism to operate at the second position thereby allowing the displacement of the substrate by a predetermined distance relative to the print head for printing a next line; and

a third mechanism, responsive to the displacement of the substrate, for providing a second signal, indicative of the displacement of the substrate by the predetermined distance, for causing the print head to print the next line, wherein the third mechanism comprises an optical sensor that restricts the movement of the print head by a distance substantially equal to the width of one print line.

2. (cancelled)

3. (original) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a fourth mechanism, responsive to a last line, for providing for preventing the first mechanism from further operating at the first position after the last line is printed.

4. (cancelled)

5. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the substrate is displaced by a roller, and the first mechanism comprises a latching mechanism operatively connected to the roller for restricting the roller from movement when the first mechanism is operated at the first position.

6. (original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the first mechanism further comprises a gear mechanically linked with the roller for movement, and wherein the gear has a plurality of gear teeth and the latching mechanism is capable of engaging the gear teeth for restricting the movement of the gear.

7. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the value metering system is a counter-top system.

8. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the value metering system is a hand-held system.

9. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the value metering system comprises a postage meter.

10. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the substrate is manually displaced.

11. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the substrate is displaced by a movement device.

12. - 20. (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) The method of claim [12]1, wherein the value metering system comprises a ticket printer.

22. (currently amended) The method of claim [12]1, wherein the value metering system comprises a coupon printer.

23. - 28. (cancelled)

29. (currently amended) The value-metering system of claim [28]9, wherein the substrate comprises an envelope for mailing.

30. (currently amended) The value-metering system of claim [28]9, wherein the substrate comprises a tape for printing an indicium.

31. (currently amended) The value-metering system of claim [28]9, wherein the print head is adapted to printing an indicium.

32. (currently amended) The value-metering system of claim [28]9, wherein the print head is adapted to printing an address on the substrate for mailing.

33. (currently amended) The value-metering system of claim [23]9, wherein the print head is adapted to printing a message on the substrate.

34. - 35. (cancelled)